



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# California Farm News

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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## USDA SURVEYS NURSERY AND FLORICULTURE CHEMICAL USE

SACRAMENTO, CA, February 4, 2010 – For the first time since 2007, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is gearing up to collect detailed data on chemical use and pest management practices in the nursery and floriculture industries. Starting this month, representatives from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be surveying growers in six of the nation's largest nursery and floriculture producing states, including California.

"The Nursery and Floriculture Chemical Use Survey is the only comprehensive measure of chemical usage in this specialty area of agriculture," said Vic Tolomeo, Director, USDA-NASS California Field Office. "Because the survey is only conducted every three years, there is a great need for accurate, up-to-date information."

Tolomeo explained that the survey results will be used by a host of individuals and organizations – including growers, distributors, chemical manufacturers, buyers, policymakers, regulators and others – to make sound business decisions and plan for the future.

"By participating in the survey, growers will provide valuable data needed to help ensure that products they use to maintain healthy and flourishing crops continue to be available for use," Tolomeo said.

NASS representatives will contact selected producers through mid-May to arrange in-person interviews for conducting the survey. Respondents will be asked to provide information on the type and location of plants treated with chemical applications, the method of application and the pest management practices used.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," Tolomeo explained.

Survey results will be published in NASS's *Nursery and Floriculture Chemical Use Summary* to be released in early 2011. This and all NASS reports are available online at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/>. To obtain a copy of any completed report, call the NASS order desk at 1-800-727-9540.

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